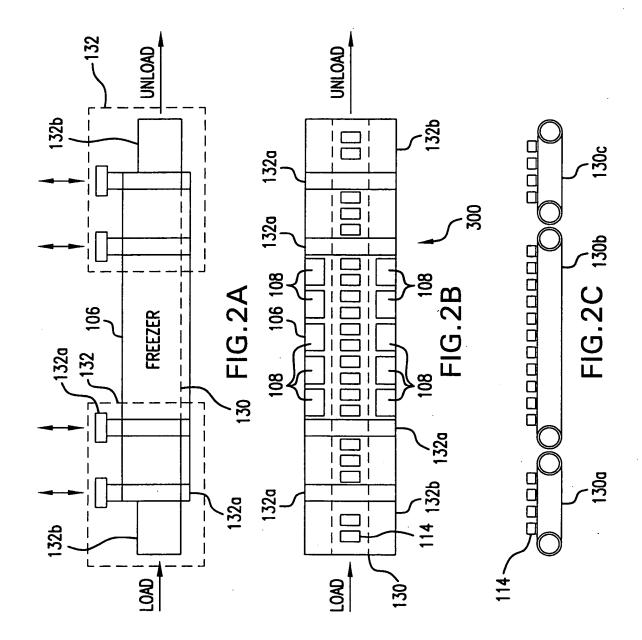
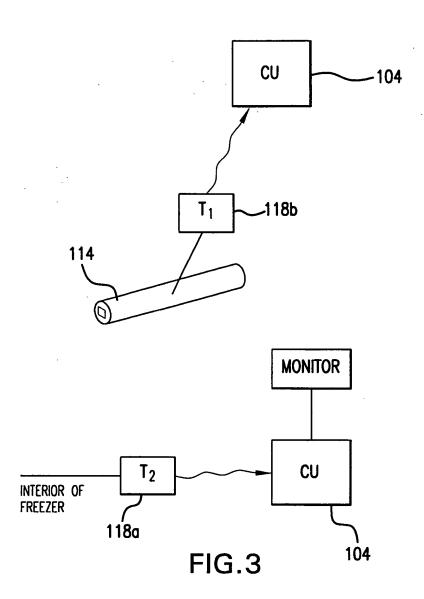
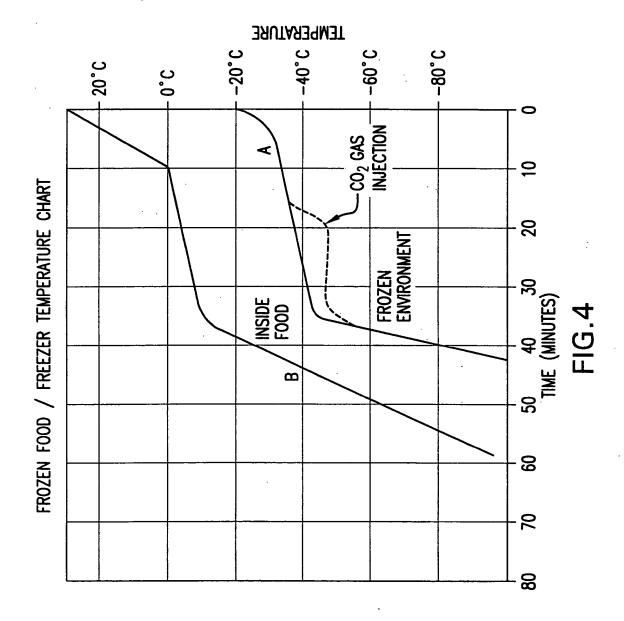


FOOD FREEZING AND THAWING METHOD AND Sheet 2 of 9 Inv.: H. OKITA; Atty Dkt: 2888-101; Atty Tel: 202 783 6040

APPARATUS Sheet 3 of 9 Inv.: H. OKITA; Atty Dkt: 2888-101; Atty Tel: 202 783 6040







FOOD FREEZING AND THAWING METHOD AND APPARATUS Sheet 6 of 9 Inv.: H. OKITA; Atty Dkt: 2888-101; Atty Tel: 202 783 6040

Step 5-1
THE FOOD TO BE FROZEN IS DEAERATED AND VACUUM BAGGED.

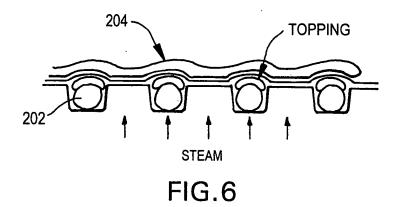
Step 5-2
THE FOOD IS PLACED IN THE FREEZER.

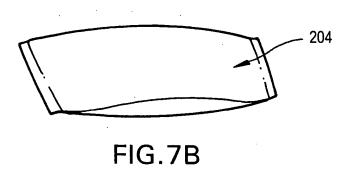
Step 5-3

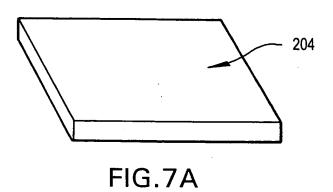
WHEN THE TEMPERATURE OF THE FOOD REACHES THE UPPER LIMIT OF THE ACCELERATED AGING TEMPERATURE ZONE, COOLING IS ADJUSTED.

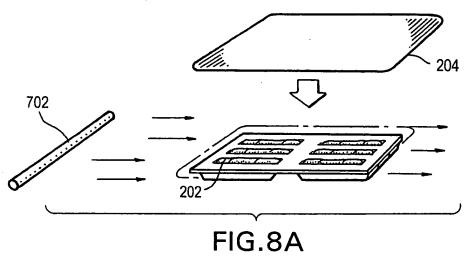
Step 5-4

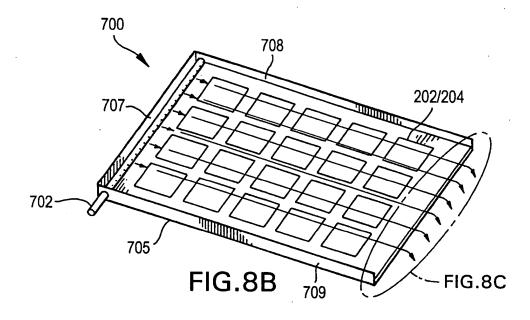
COOLING IS FURTHER ADJUSTED TO PASS FOOD THROUGH THE ICE CRYSTAL GENERATION ZONE UNTIL IT IS COMPLETELY FROZEN.

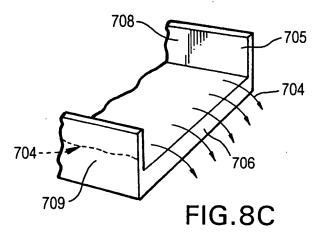












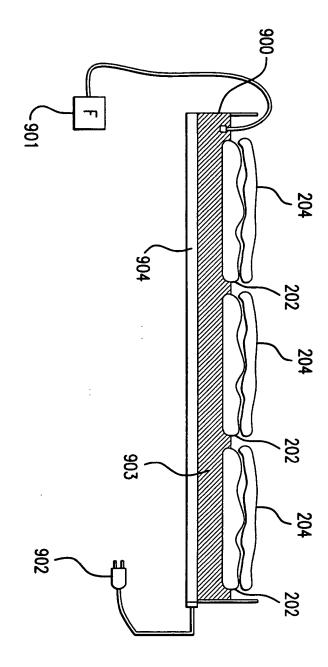


FIG.9